Reviewer’s report

Title: Specialist palliative care support is associated with improved pain relief at home during the last 3 months of life in patients with advanced disease: analysis of 5-year data from the national survey of bereaved people (VOICES)

Version: 0 Date: 19 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Johan Menten

Reviewer's report:

can you answer the following questions /remarks?

126 : no pain ....and without chronic treatment with analgesics ? add these last 6 words

147Having a preference recorded 148 for place of death: is that enough to evaluate the patient as somebody who did advance care planning?

Is does say nothing about needs and effective symptom control, to stop or to withhold some treatments!

This is an a minima advance care plan up to my opinion

Figure 2: why is the sum of % of patients with and without pal. care not 100%?

Idemditto for the (non-)engagement for advance care planningcohortes

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes
Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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